

## Claims

What is claimed is:

1. An address book application programming interface comprising:  
an abstracted application programming interface for communicating between an application and an adapter; and  
said adapter for communicating between said abstracted application programming interface and one of a plurality of address book programs.
2. The address book application programming interface according to Claim 1, wherein said abstracted application programming interface comprises a first set of programming code generic to said plurality of address book programs.
3. The address book application programming interface according to Claim 2, wherein said adapter comprises a second set of programming code specific to said one of said plurality of address book programs.
4. The address book application programming interface according to Claim 1, wherein said abstracted application programming interface and said adapter are written in a platform independent programming language.
5. The address book application programming interface according to Claim 4, wherein said platform independent programming language is Java.
6. The address book application programming interface according to Claim 1, wherein said abstracted application programming interface and said adapter are substantially lightweight directory access protocol compliant.
7. The address book application programming interface according to Claim 1, wherein said plurality of address books are compliant with at least one protocol selected from

the group consisting of lightweight directory access protocol, Microsoft Exchange Address Book protocol, Lotus Notes Address Book protocol, and SunOne Address Book protocol.

8. A method of communicating between an application and an address book program performed by an address book application programming interface comprising:
  - establishing an abstraction of a session;
  - implementing said abstraction of said session;
  - creating an abstraction of opening said address book program;
  - implementing said abstraction of opening said address book program;
  - generating an abstraction of an operation on said address book program; and
  - implementing said abstraction of said operation on said address book program.
9. The method according to Claim 8, wherein said abstraction of said session is generic to a plurality of address book programs.
10. The method according to Claim 8, wherein said abstraction of said session comprises a first and second abstract class.
11. The method according to Claim 10, wherein said implementing said abstraction of said session is provided by an object of said first abstract class and an object of said second abstract class.
12. The method according to Claim 8, wherein said implementing said abstraction of said session is specific to a particular one of said plurality of address book programs.
13. The method according to Claim 8, wherein said abstraction of opening an address book is generic to said plurality of address book programs.
14. The method according to Claim 8, wherein said abstraction of opening said address book program is provided by said second abstract class.

15. The method according to Claim 14, wherein said implementing said abstraction of opening said address book program is provided by an object of said second abstract class.
16. The method according to Claim 8, wherein said implementing said abstraction of opening said address book program is specific to said particular one of said plurality of address book programs.
17. The method according to Claim 8, wherein said abstraction of said operation on said address book program is generic to said plurality of address book programs.
18. The method according to Claim 8, wherein said abstraction of said operation is provided by a third abstract class.
19. The method according to Claim 18, wherein said implementing said abstraction of said operation is provided by an object of said third abstract class.
20. The method according to Claim 8, wherein said implementing said abstraction of said operation on said address book program is specific to said particular one of said plurality of address book programs.
21. A computer-readable medium containing instructions which when executed cause a computing device to implement a method of communicating between an application and an address book program comprising:
  - establishing a session between said application and said address book program, wherein an abstraction of said session is provided by an abstracted API and wherein an implementation of said abstraction of said session is provided by an adapter;
  - opening said address book program, wherein an abstraction of said opening said address book program is provided by said abstracted API and wherein an

implementation of said abstraction of said opening said address book program is provided by said adapter; and

performing an operation on said address book program, wherein an abstraction of said performing said operation is provided by said abstracted API and wherein an implementation of said abstraction of said performing said operation is provided by said adapter.

22. The computer-readable medium according to Claim 21, wherein said abstracted application programming interface comprises programming code common to a plurality of address books programs.
23. The computer-readable medium according to Claim 22, wherein said adapter comprises programming code dependent from one of said plurality of address book programs.
24. The computer-readable medium according to Claim 23, wherein said plurality of address book programs are lightweight directory access protocol compliant.
25. The computer-readable medium according to Claim 21, wherein said abstracted application programming interface and said adapter are written in a platform independent programming language.
26. The computer-readable medium according to Claim 25, wherein said platform independent programming language is Java.
27. The computer-readable medium according to Claim 21, wherein said abstracted application programming interface and said adapter are compliant with at least one protocol selected from the group consisting of lightweight directory access protocol, Microsoft Exchange Address Book protocol, Lotus Notes Address Book protocol, and SunOne Address Book protocol.